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Masters of Persian Classical Music to Perform at CMA

CLEVELAND — For the first time, four of Iran's most celebrated classical musicians are performing together in a North American tour. They are the **Masters of Persian Music**: Mohammad Reza Shajarian (vocals), Hossein Alizadeh (*tar* and *setar*, or lutes), Kayhan Kalhor (*kamencheh*, or spiked fiddle), and Homayoun Shajarian (vocals and *tombak*, or drum). The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) is their only Midwest stop. The concert will take place in Gartner Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2001. Tickets are available at $30 and $27. Call **1-888-CMA-0033** or buy online at **www.clevelandart.org**.

Each member of this group is internationally known. Mohammad Reza Shajarian, the country's most acclaimed classical singer, won the prestigious UNESCO Picasso Award last year. Shajarian is considered a national treasure in Iran and is respected for his high level of technical skill, warm vocal style, and vast knowledge of classical Persian poetry. He collaborated with Kayhan Kalhor on a recent album, *Night Silence Desert* (Traditional Crossroads), released in November 2000. Shajarian's son, Homayoun, has accompanied his father in many ensembles, performing in Europe, Iran, and North America.

Hossein Alizadeh is considered Iran's greatest living instrumentalist. His technical mastery of the Persian lutes (*tar* and *setar*), coupled with his innovation of combining classical and folk music and technique, has led to a new aesthetic in Persian music. He has performed extensively in Europe and North America and has been featured on numerous radio networks, including Radio France, the BBC (U.K.), RIAS (Berlin), and NPR (U.S.). Alizadeh was a guest soloist in the orchestra of the renowned Bejart Ballet Company in the performance of *Gulistan*, a ballet by Maurice Bejart. He has recorded several albums, including the 1998 release *The Art of Improvisation* (Wergo Records).

Kayhan Kalhor performs with various international artists, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma — they will embark on "the Silk Road Project," a world tour, this year. Kalhor has also written traditional Persian works for the *Kronos Quartet*, with whom he performed and recorded in 1999. Kalhor has lectured and performed extensively in Iran, Europe, and North America, and recently appeared at Washington's Smithsonian Institute and London's Royal Albert Hall. He also co-founded and tours with the *Dastan Ensemble*, an acclaimed traditional Iranian music ensemble.

The Masters of Persian Classical Music tour is organized by the World Music Institute (www.HearTheWorld.org).

For more information on CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit **www.clevelandart.org**.